2. As regards the Arthasadhaka Patrike too I regret I cannot agree to the recommendations. It is proposed to supply him with articles, 2,000 subscribers, blocks for illustrations and machinery for printing. I do not see why we should pay him a subsidy in addition. I have no doubt it would be better to issue it from the Conference office direct. If the Development Departments will only be regular and prompt in supplying the articles and blocks (as promised to the subsidised Journal) printing and posting should not occasion any serious difficulty. As for the Village Panchayets I think we ought to supply such things to them free. They are the legitimate media for the conference to reach the rural population and not a mere financial convenience.

I do not think that bulky matter has any chance of being read by the Panchayets or the rural population. It is desirable that the articles should be brief, well printed on good paper and well illustrated. I do not think second hand machinery can turn out good work. While each issue should not contain too many articles, I agree that the Journal should be issued frequently. I would suggest two issues a week. A few brief and brightly written articles well illustrated with small items of interesting information (relating to topics germane to the Journal) and the whole well turned out in an up-to-date press may succeed. I attach importance also to the fact that the articles should be written by Departmental officials or other responsible persons so that we may be sure that the "Propaganda" is on sound lines and the information broadcast on our authority is sound and correct.

Our past experience does not encourage us to hope that the continuance of past practices with a little more expenditure would improve matters. The obvious lack of capital and the admitted need for the supply of material for the Journal seem to me in themselves sufficient to make the proposals unacceptable. Past experiences seem also against continuance.

A competent hand to write up the articles in popular Kannada will have to be employed in the Office. It is necessary that the language should be as simple and familiar as possible. The printing should be done in the Government Press or if that is impossible in some other Press which could turn out good and attractive work.

The expenditure would not be much in excess of the proposed subsidy. If however the Journal is supplied to the Village Panchayets free the total cost of the Journal to the Conference would of course be more. I think however it would be worth while. In view of past experience I have no doubt we should strike out a new line. I therefore recommend that the Journal should be run on the lines indicated above that the Development Departments should be responsible for the contents and that the Journal should be issued directly by the Conference Office who should be responsible for the language, get up and punctuality of the Journal.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Reviews the Report on the Administration of the Several Town and Minor Municipal Councils in the State during the year 1927-28.

READ—

The reports on the administration of the several Town and Minor Municipalities in the State for the year 1927-28 and the reviews of the Deputy Commissioners of Districts thereon.

2. Letter No. 425—L. A. D., dated the 19th January 1929, from the Comptroller, forwarding the report on the audit of the accounts of these Municipalities during the year.

ORDER NO. L. 7624-35—ML. 150-28-48, DATED 20TH MAY 1929.

Recorded.

2. *Number of Municipalities.*—The total number of Town and Minor Municipal Councils was the same, *viz.*, 102 as in the preceding year. Though Belakavadi and Yelandur were notified as Minor Municipal Councils during the year, they were not brought into working order. The Minor Municipal Council of Arsikere was converted into a Town Municipal Council. Sringeri continued to be a non-regulation Municipality and the question of bringing it under the provisions of the Municipal Regulation is under the consideration of Government. Orders have since been passed

converting the Malebennur Municipal Council, Chitaldrug District, into a Village Panchayet and the question of converting other Minor Municipal Councils with a population of less than 3,000 into Panchayets is under consideration.

3. *Constitution.*—General elections were held in 58 Municipalities. No information is furnished in many of the reviews as to whether the seats were contested and what percentage of the voters in the several constituencies exercised their right of voting.

4. *Strength of Councils and Meetings.*—The total strength of members on the last day of the year was 1,520 as against 1,488 members on the last day of the preceding year. Of these, 724 were elected members, 313 *Ex-officio* members and the rest, *viz.*, 483 were non-officials appointed by the Government. The attendance at meetings is reported to be fairly satisfactory, but there is still much scope for improvement. In the Kolar District all the Municipal Councils held the prescribed number of meetings, which was not the case in several Municipal Councils of the other Districts. It is unsatisfactory to note that Alur Municipal Council in the Hassan District held only two meetings during the year. Of 1,245 meetings held, the number of meetings adjourned for want of quorum was 240. The number of such meetings was large in the case of Channapatna, Shimoga and Chikmagalur Municipal Councils. This is unsatisfactory. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to impress upon the Municipal Councils and the members constituting them, the necessity of holding monthly meetings regularly for the despatch of work and of regular and punctual attendance at the meetings.

5. *Presidents and Vice-Presidents.*—In addition to the Municipal Councils of Tumkur, Chikmagalur and Hassan, the privilege of electing a non-official President from among the Municipal Councillors was conferred on the Tiptur Municipal Council. The privilege of electing a Vice-President from among Municipal Councillors was withdrawn from the Vadigenahalli Municipal Council and a Vice-President was nominated thereto.

6. *Committees.*—In spite of the observations made in the review on the administration of these Municipal Councils for the year 1926-27, it is found that no progress has een made in several Municipal Councils in the matter of constituting committees authorised under the Municipal Regulation and the Municipal Account Manual. Even where the Managing Committees have been constituted, either no business has been transacted or the work turned out is very poor. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to issue necessary instructions to see that in all Municipalities three committees, *viz.*, the Managing Committee, the Audit Committee and the Health Committee are formed during the current year.

7. *Bye-laws.*—Information has not been furnished in the reviews of Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts as to whether any bye-laws were framed by the several Municipal Councils in these districts during the year. It is reported that in some of the Municipalities of the Hassan District, bye-laws for the (1) levy of octroi, (2) compulsory vaccination, and (3) registration of births and deaths have not been framed. The defects should be rectified as early as possible. Draft bye-laws relating to epidemic diseases and eating houses, levy of market fees, introduction of daily conservancy and for regulation of water-supply are reported to have been framed by some of the Municipal Councils in the Kadur and Mysore Districts but that sanction of Government has not been obtained therefor. The Town Municipal Council of Sagar framed Building Bye-laws and Octroi and Taxation Rules and they have been sanctioned by the Government. The proposal of the Shimoga Town Municipal Council for exempting genuine hand spun Khadder imported into the Municipal limits from levy of octroi was sanctioned. The attention of the Deputy Commissioners is invited to para 6 of Government Order No. L. 6253-67—Ml. 153-27-49, dated 9th April 1928, in this matter and they are requested to advise the Municipal Councils to take prompt action to frame the necessary bye-laws on important matters.

8. *Finance and Incidence of Taxation.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 5,29,440 and the income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 13,63,863 and 13,78,823 respectively. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 5,14,480. The expenditure during the year was more than the income in the districts of Mysore, Tumkur, Kolar and Chitaldrug. The incidence of taxation per head of population ranged from Re. 0-4-0 in the Konanur Municipality, Hassan District, to Rs. 6-8-4 in the French-Rocks Municipality, Mysore District.

9. *Collection of Municipal Dues.*—The reviews of the Deputy Commissioners disclose that the collection work in several Town Municipalities was not satisfactory. In the Kadur District, the arrears in each Municipal Council are stated to be more than the annual demand in each case, while in the Chitaldrug District in the Municipalities of Harihar, Hiriyur, Molakalmuru, Mayakonda and Malebennur, the arrears are more than 25 per cent of the demand. In the Shimoga District, Shiralkoppa Municipality has got the heaviest arrears, *viz.*, 69·33 per cent of its demand. In the Mysore District, the Municipalities of Nanjangud, Seringapatam, Hunsur and Chamarajnagar account for heavy balances of old arrears. The Comptroller's report on the audit of the Municipal accounts for 1926-27 shows that the arrears under Mohatarfa were more than double the annual demand in three Municipalities and that the arrears exist for a period of 30 years in the cases of Goribidnur, Seringapatam, Hassan and Honnali Municipalities. The attention of the Municipal Councils is invited to Section 161 (*b*) of the Municipal Regulation, according to which the Municipal Council is not authorised to issue distress warrants for arrears of mohatarfa taxes more than three years old. In the case of time barred dues, persuasion should be resorted to as far as possible and the really irrecoverable items should be written off the accounts after observing the required procedure. The Municipal Councils may be instructed to take systematic action and institute coercive steps for the recovery of the arrears. This is being repeatedly urged on the attention of the Municipal Councils. But no prompt action has yet been taken by them to recover the dues and also to improve their financial position by periodical revision of assessment, without which it is not possible to carry out measures for the comfort, health and convenience of the ratepayers. Government trust that due attention will be paid to this and better results will be achieved in this direction in future.

10. *Public Works, Town Improvements and Water Supply.*—A sum of Rs. 2,63, 786 was spent in all the districts for the above purposes. Improvement of towns received considerable attention and the suggestions made by the Executive Engineer, Town Planning Division are receiving attention at the hands of Municipal Councils. The amounts sanctioned by Government for Town Improvement were distributed to the several districts and several improvement works such as drainage works, removal of congestion by opening out lanes, filling up of ditches, widening of squares and streets were carried out supplemented by contributions out of Municipal Funds. The drainage scheme of Channarayapatna was under consideration. The construction of filter beds and laying out of pipes in connection with the water-supply scheme of Tumkur was completed and water was let for public use. The water-supply works at Kadur and Mudigere Towns were completed. The project for the supply of water to Hunsur was taken up and those for Malvalli and Tarikere were under investigation as also the scheme for water-supply for Dodballapur Town. In regard to the latter, a further sum has been sanctioned for borehole experiment. The improvement in the supply of water to the Shimoga Town is stated to have been almost completed during the year. In the Chitaldrug District, the difficulty for water-supply was met by sinking boreholes and the Anklimutt valley scheme was not pushed through. The electrification of Bowringpet and Channapatna was completed while that of Kolar and Tumkur were nearing completion. Electrification works in connection with Closepet and Nanjangud Towns were in progress during the year under report, while estimates for the electrification of Dodballapur, Chikballapur, Sidlaghatta and Devanhalli were sanctioned during the year and those for Mandya, Malvalli, Chamarajnagar and Maddur were under consideration.

11. *Public Health and Sanitation.*—Public health was generally good, except for the prevalence of plague, cholera and small-pox in a sporadic form. The Municipal Councils are reported to have adopted the necessary preventive and precautionary measures to check the spread of the diseases. Complete information is not furnished as regards the number of patients treated in the Local Fund Dispensaries and Vaidyasalas and the number of labour cases attended to by the Midwives. Information is not also available as regards the number of vaccinations performed in the several Municipalities.

12. *Public Instruction.*—A sum of Rs. 8,756 was spent on Public Instruction in the Districts of Kolar, Shimoga, Tumkur and Chitaldrug. Information has not been furnished in respect of other districts. Action should be taken by such of Municipal Councils as have not levied the Education Cess to levy the same with effect from 1929-30 after obtaining the sanction of Government.

13. *Inspection of Municipalities and Municipal Offices.*—In connection with improvement of towns, the Executive Engineer, Town Planning Division inspected a few Municipalities in regard to the improvement and his suggestions are receiving the attention of the Municipal Councils. Except the Deputy Commissioners of Kadur, Chitaldrug and Hassan, who inspected 4, 3 and 4 offices respectively, the other Deputy Commissioners have not furnished any information on this point. The attention of the Deputy Commissioners is invited to para 15 of the review on the administration of these Municipal Councils during the year 1926-27 and to Government Order No. L. 2174-80—Ml. 99-28-29, dated 19th September 1928, issuing instructions in regard to the inspection of Town and Minor Municipal Council by Deputy Commissioners and they are requested to inspect the Municipal Offices in their districts at least once a year and to arrange to see that the defects noticed by them are also rectified.

14. *Audit of Accounts.*—Audit Committees were not constituted by many Municipal Councils. The report of audit of Municipal accounts for the year 1926-27 made by the Local Audit staff was received from the Comptroller on 1st January 1929. It is noticed therefrom that the irregularities of previous years have been repeated. Government observe that these defects and irregularities to some extent are due to the fact that the clerks therein entrusted with the work, do not possess required qualification. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to arrange to have only qualified men posted to these appointments. The Comptroller's report will be separately printed and circulated to the several Municipal Councils.

15. *General.*—None of the reviews of the Deputy Commissioners was received on the prescribed dates. The reviews do not also contain complete information on all the points prescribed for the Municipal administration report and the consolidated statements, 21 in number were not submitted along with the review. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to submit their reports to Government in due time in future with complete information.

16. *Conclusion.*—During the year under review, the Silver Jubilee of the 25th year of the reign of His Highness the Maharaja was celebrated with enthusiasm by all the Municipal Councils in the State. The event was commemorated by the several Municipal Councils by the construction of Silver Jubilee Town Halls and Silver Jubilee Parks, etc.

The non-official Councillors, Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Municipalities are reported to have evinced keen interest in the administration of the Municipal affairs during the year. As an appreciation of the services so rendered, Public Service Medals were awarded by His Highness the Maharaja to Messrs. B. Kesaviah and C. Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur and Mr. Baba Saheb of Tarikere. But as repeated in the last year's review, Government are constrained to observe that the same defects such as bad collection, unwillingness to systematically revise the assessments and to take coercive steps for the recovery of the Municipal dues and indifference to audit reports still continue and unless these are remedied the administration of the Municipalities cannot be considered to be satisfactory.

The Special Committee appointed to scrutinise the draft bill for the Minor Municipalities have finished their labours and the bill has been submitted to Government. Another bill for amending the existing Municipal Regulation in the light of the experience gained in the course of its working is engaging the attention of the said Committee.

B. NARAYANASWAMI IYENGAR,
Offg. *General Secretary to Government.*